

This Week in Congress

October 23, 2006

Dear Friend,

Welcome to "This Week in Congress." As Congress is out of session this month, I am spending time in communities across the state visiting with Kansans.

Ensuring Kansans Continue to Have Local Access to Renew Driver's Licenses

Many Kansans enjoy the convenience of being able to renew their driver's license, change their name or address, or have other license permits processed by their local county treasurer. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is currently working to develop rules that may change who is able to issue driver's licenses and other documents.

Working with Kansas county treasurers, I have asked DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff to issue rules that allow county treasurers to continue providing this service. If DHS regulations prevent county treasurers from issuing secure identification documents, Kansans will be needlessly inconvenienced by having to drive long distances to a get driver's licenses renewed. I will continue to work with DHS to make sure Kansans are able to receive these important local services.

Presenting Jack Heather of Hays with World War II Medals

This weekend, I presented Jack Heather of Hays with his medals from serving in the Army Air Corps during World War II. Mr. Heather served in the China-Burma-India Theater. I presented him with the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, WWII Victory Medal and the Honorable Service Lapel Button.

Friends and family attended the presentation in Fort Hays State University's Heather Hall, which was named in honor of Mr. Heather. He is a FHSU Professor Emeritus of the Information Networking and Telecommunications Department. He started his career at FHSU in 1950 where he developed the radio curriculum for the university and later, the television curriculum. Mr. Heather retired from FHSU in 1988.

Visiting Kansas Schools

I spent time in several high schools this week visiting American government classes in various places throughout the district. These visits not only allow me the opportunity to talk with Kansas students about current issues and events, but to also learn about how Kansas schools are working to meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Law. I recently introduced legislation that would use common sense ideas to make NCLB more efficient and effective. To read more about this legislation, [click here](#) .

My visits this week included Jennifer Gillespie's class at Macksville High School, Valerie Kepple's class at Ness City High School, Tim Dusin's class at Spearville High School, Ben Clark's class at Stockton High School and Bill Johnson's class at Norton Community High School. Thank you to the teachers, staff and administration for the opportunity to visit each of the schools.

Visiting Kansas Communities

Belpre: On Monday, I visited the community of Belpre and made stops at the post office, Junction Cafe and Southern Plains Coop.

Kinsley: I visited Kinsley this week to tour the Edwards County Hospital and Healthcare Center. I appreciated my time with Administrator Shawn Keef.

Burdett: I stopped in Burdett for the Senior Citizens Luncheon at the Senior Center. Once a week, members of the community gather together to share a pot luck meal. For the last eighteen years I have been able to share in these events. I enjoyed visiting with those in attendance.

Rozel: I visited the community of Rozel this week and made stops at Golden Valley Coop, the post office, Pawnee Heights High School, the school district offices and Blattner Manufacturing.

Dodge City: I made several stops in Dodge City, including the Dodge City Crisis Center where I met with Tammie West, Pam Smith, Suzie Brooks, Brekk Schoonover and Tina Gerbera. On Wednesday morning, I attended the Dodge City Chamber breakfast where I had the opportunity to visit with many area residents. I also visited the Dodge City Youthville Campus. I have requested funding be made available to complete a new dining facility at Youthville. Thanks to Mike Hoar, Chief Program Officer, and Alan Cunningham, Superintendent, for showing me around.

Garden City: I made a few stops in Garden City to visit several facilities that serve families in the area. First, I visited the Kansas Children's Service League and Head Start. This program serves Wichita, Scott, Kearny, Finney, Stanton, Grant, Haskell, Stevens, Pratt, Seward, Kingman, Stafford and Gray counties. Thanks to Director GeoRita Jones for visiting with me about the program. I also visited the Families Together facility. This program assists parents and their children with disabilities. Thanks to Center Coordinator Tammy Schwindt for sharing with me the ways they advocate for children in our school system.

Scott City: In Scott City, I visited the Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center. David Fyler and Kelly Robbins, co-directors of the advocacy center, and board member Judge Wade Dixon of Tribune visited with me about their efforts to help traumatized children in Kansas. They are using unique ways to collect testimonies that increase the likelihood offenders will be prosecuted, including use of a motor home as a "mobile center" to serve 26 surrounding counties.

Jetmore: I spoke at the Jetmore Lions Club noon meeting on Thursday at Sidewinders Restaurant and Club. During the meeting, members discussed plans for a bond issue to add on to and renovate the Hodgeman County Health Center.

Hill City: At the invitation of Kay Mitchell, I visited the Northwest Kansas Education Center to talk about the local Head Start Program. Head Start helps young children and their families get ready for school, giving the children the preparation they need to succeed. I also spoke to a group of teachers during their in service about No Child Left Behind reform.

Bogue: I stopped in the community of Bogue and visited Midwest Coop, Farmers and Merchants Bank and the post office. Also while in the area, I visited the Nicodemus National Historic Site.

Larned: On Saturday, I attended the Larned Kiwanis Club Soup Day. This is the annual fundraiser for the Kiwanis group. Proceeds from the event go to youth activities in the community.

Hays: Robba and I attended the twelfth annual soup supper at St. Nicholas of Myra Parish. It was great to warm up with a soup meal and spend time with members of the community on a cool fall day.

In the Office

Bill Ring of Hays and Marcia Smith of McPherson were in the office this week with the American Red Cross to update me on recent Red Cross events in Kansas. Mary Fisher of Emporia and Annette Rude of Kansas City were in with the Kansas ACLU to talk about illegal immigration, the National Security Agency's surveillance program and racial profiling.

Several Kansans were in my Washington, D.C., office this week for a tour of the United States Capitol building. John and Cindy Diederich of Wamego were in, as were Janet Specht and her great-niece, Vanessa Brummer, both of Beloit. Gerald and Sheryl Gerstner of Frankfort, Sheri Saner of South Hutchinson and Terry Newell of Seneca also stopped by. Nancy Farber and Rolando Reyes of Derby also came by for a tour, along with Brenda Sue Taylor of Mulvane and Rod and Jane Young of Bird City with their children, Hayley and Ethan. Harold and Evelyn Nelson of McPherson were in with their daughters and grandchildren - Sonia Mackey of Washington and Anita Klug of Salina and her children, Amber and Tyler.

Very truly yours,

Jerry Moran